

O 251343Z JAN 06
FM AMCONSUL DUBAI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7960
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL DUBAI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY RIYADH IMMEDIATE
ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBAI 000372

E.O. 12958: DECL: 1/25/2016
TAGS: [PTER](#) [KPAL](#) [KPAO](#) [IS](#)

SUBJECT: NO HAMAS TV TO BE PERMITTED IN DUBAI

REF: A) STATE 11634; B) DUBAI 0292

CLASSIFIED BY: Jason Davis, Consul General, Dubai , UAE.
REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

11. (C) On January 25 Consul General contacted Dubai Media City CEO Ahmed Bin Byat, intending to deliver Ref A talking points. As soon as he grasped the nature of the conversation, however, Bin Byat interrupted to express shock that the U.S. would even "imagine" that Hamas would be allowed to set up a television or radio station in Dubai Media City. "You know our rules!" he exclaimed (a reference to an earlier conversation, Ref B, about an Iranian TV station, in which Bin Byat had stated categorically that no stations affiliated with political parties were permitted in DMC.)

12. (C) CG asked Bin Byat whether it was true that Hamas had applied to set up a satellite TV station in DMC, as had been reported in Al-Hayat, Al-Arabiya, and elsewhere. Bin Byat replied "I did not hear about such an application, but it would not be surprising. We get applications from all kinds of groups in the region, including Iran, but we turn all of them down. Be assured that this will not be a problem."

DAVIS